*327. [The questioner (Shri S.P.M. Syed Khan was absent for answer *vide* page 28. infra].

भारत, म्यांमार और थाईलैंड को सड़क मार्ग से जोड़ना

*328. श्रीमती सविता शारदा: क्या नौवहन, सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारत, म्यांमार तथा थाईलैंड को सड़क मार्ग से जोड़ने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस संबंध में अंतिम निर्णय कब तक ले लिया जाएगा?

नौवहन, सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री (श्री टी. आर. बालू): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा जाता है।

विवरण

(क) जी हां।

(ख) और (ग) भारत, म्यांमार तथा थाईलैंड के विदेशमंत्री अप्रैल, 2004 में यंगून (म्यांमार) में मिले थे और अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ भारत, म्यांमार तथा थाईलैंड को जोड़ने के लिए भारत में मोरे से म्यांमार में बागान होते हुए थाइलैंड में सोट के लिए एक राजमार्ग के निर्माण तथा तकनीकी और वित्तीय कार्य बल के गठन पर सहमत हुए थे। इस कार्य बल की पिछली बैठक दिसंबर, 2003 में नई दिल्ली में हुई थी और उसके बाद तीनों देशों के विदेश मंत्रियों की बैठक हुई थी। इन बैठकों में परियोजना लागत की भागीदारी के साथ-साथ विभिन्न तकनीकी और वित्तीय मामलों पर विचार-विमर्श किया गया था। इस परियोजना में 3 संप्रभु देश शामिल है और इसलिए इसके कार्यान्वयन के लिए निश्चित समय सीमा बता पाना संभव नहीं है।

Linking India, Myanmar and Thailand by road

†328. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to link India, Myanmar and Thailand by road routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard would be taken?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Foreign Ministers of India, Myanmar and Thailand met in April, 2002 at Yangoon (Myanmar) and agreed, *inter-alia,* for construction of a hgihway from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand through Bagan in Myanmar linking India, Myanmar and Thailand and also to establish Technical and Financial Task Forces. The last meeting of the Task forces was held at New Delhi during December 2003, which was followed by a meeting of the foreign Ministers of the three countries. Various Technical and Financial issues including the sharing of the projects costs were discussed during these meetings. The project involves three sovereign countries and as such, it will be difficult to indicate precise time frame for its implementation.

श्रीमती सविता शारदा: सभापति माहेदय, मंत्री जी का जवाब बहुत अनिश्चित जैसा है। इसलिए मैं आप के माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या उपरोक्त परियोजना का निर्णय वर्ष 2002 में किया गया था? यदि हां, तो इस परियोजना के प्रारंभ में विलंब के क्या कारण हैं और इस परियोजना पर कार्य कब से प्रारंभ किया जाएगा? साथ ही उपरोक्त परियोजना के अंतर्गत बनायी जाने वाली सड़क की लंबाई कितनी होगी?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, in 2002, three sovereign Governments, India, Myanmar and Thailand, represented by their External Affairs Ministers, decided to establish a trilateral highway between India, *via* Myanmar and Thailand. They have decided to establish two Task Forces, one to have technical details,and another, to identify how much funding will be required. The two Task Forces have met on 4th December,2002 and 22nd December, 2003. They have identified the length of the road as well as the sources of funding. The length of the road will be around 1,360 kilometres. The approximate amount to be utilised will be US $ 700million. Since it pertains to three sovereign States, they have not yet decided in what manner they will have to go about it. These things are highly sensitive in nature. Sir, there is no other information, as on today. Whatever has to be decided, that has to be decided by the MEA only.

श्रीमती सविता शारदा: सभापति जी, तीन सरकारों की बात कही गई है, तो क्या इन

सरकारों के साथ कोई बातचीत हुई है और इस हाईवे अपोर्चुनिटी के निर्माण के परिणामस्वरूप इन देशों के व्यापार तथा पर्यटन में कितनी वृद्धि होने की संभावना है?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I can only inform the hon. Member that they have decided to take up the matter in three phases. The first phase will be US $ 52.47 million, the second phase will be around US $ 154.48 million and the third phase will be around US $ 283.6 million. Some discussions are going on between Myanmar and Thailand, and, probably, all the representatives of the External Affairs Ministries of these countries will be meeting during the next month of the next year. So, beyond this I cannot disclose.

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister one thing. While setting up the National Highways in the States, will the Minister come forward to ensure that the kilometre stones are written in regional languages?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, this question does not arise out of this.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that while constructing these roads, whether they have taken into consideration the situation existing in North-East at large, particularly, in reference to the insurgency, and also the stuation existing in Myanmar and Thailand. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, yes, I know, a little time is there. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether these factors have been taken into consideration, and if so, what are the remedial measures that this Ministry is contemplating to take?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, on this particular road stretch, which starts from Manipur, definitely, it will fuel the economic activities of the North East.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Security deposit in rural areas under Noida Telephone Exchange

†*323. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for registration of telephone, a security amount of Rs. 3000/- is being charged, instead of Rs. 500/-, from the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.